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2 May 1997

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 39
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Identical letters dated 1 May 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 51/195 B of 17 December 1996 on the situation in Afghanistan and to my report of 16 March 1997 (A/51/838-S/1997/240 and Corr.1), issued pursuant to that resolution. In paragraph 24 of that report I expressed my belief that the United Nations and its Member States had to increase efforts to address the Afghan question before the situation deteriorated even further. I underlined that it was necessary for all of us to coordinate our efforts so as to increase international pressure on the Afghan parties to solve the conflict in a peaceful way. To that end, I suggested that I might convene another meeting of concerned countries, using the formula that had been adopted for the meeting held in New York on 18 November 1996.

At my request, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Kieran Prendergast, presided over such an informal consultative meeting in New York on 16 April 1997. Representatives of China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uzbekistan and the Organization of the Islamic Conference participated.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

The purpose of the meeting was to reassess the situation following recent political and military developments and to discuss how best to promote a negotiated settlement of the conflict and reinforce the United Nations peacemaking efforts.

The meeting demonstrated that consensus continues to exist on the grave dangers of continued armed conflict for the region and on the central role of the United Nations in coordinating efforts to achieve a peaceful solution. The participants uniformly appreciated the efforts of Mr. Norbert Holl and of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan to promote agreement on a ceasefire and negotiations between the factions. While recognizing the need for all concerned countries to be involved in the search for peace, they also stressed that such initiatives should be coordinated with the United Nations.

All participants agreed that the territorial integrity and unity of Afghanistan must be preserved. They supported the view that the only solution to the conflict remains a national accord based on recognition of the legitimate interests and rights of all the Afghan people. There was consensus that all forms of foreign interference must cease, although, as usual, there were differences on how to achieve this. The flow of arms into Afghanistan remained a preoccupation and a number of countries supported an arms embargo, referring to the action taken in that connection by the European Union; some called for the Security Council to take similar action. Others, however, expressed doubts about the practical effectiveness of such a measure and whether it could be applied in an even-handed manner.

There continued to be widespread support for an international conference in due course to support the results of negotiations. A number of concrete proposals were put forward for an intra-Afghan dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations to be held outside Afghanistan, possibly with Member States as observers. Several participants repeated their offer to host negotiations and/or a conference. Many favoured the expansion of United Nations consultations beyond the leadership of the factions to include broadly representative Afghan communities and personalities. Some particularly supported the intensification of the contacts of Mr. Holl and the Special Mission with concerned States.

A number of delegations favoured the increased involvement of the Security Council in the issue. In the meantime, many expressed the view that the meeting mechanism which I had initiated in November 1996, of which this was the second instance, was a useful international framework which could meet more frequently, even every two months.

I should note the expressions of several of the participants on the desirability of a more spontaneous exchange of views at these meetings, as well as the interest of some in giving the deliberations a sharper focus. I am reflecting on how we might address those concerns together.

All participants voiced their distress at the continued plight of the Afghan people, with special attention drawn to women and girls. Several emphasized the connection between a political settlement, rehabilitation, reconstruction and peace-building. I look forward to exploring further how we

can best harmonize and coordinate policies in the future for the maximum benefit of the Afghan people.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

UNITED NATIONS **A**

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5 May 1997
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 40

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 2 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement by the Presidency of the European Union on the elections in El Salvador, issued on 30 April 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement by the Presidency of the European Union concerning the elections in El Salvador, issued on 30 April 1997

The European Union welcomes the parliamentary and local elections held in El Salvador on 16 March 1997, which mark a further step forward in the consolidation of democracy and the peace process begun with the 1992 agreements. The Union also congratulates the members of the new parliament and wishes them every success in their work.

Thanks to the civic spirit of the Salvadorian people, polling day passed in a calm, orderly manner. The national civilian police contributed with their professionalism to ensuring that voting was free of incident and without any serious irregularity. The electoral supreme court organized the counting of votes and the announcement of results fairly and openly.

The problems arising from shortcomings in the compiling of the electoral register, the distribution of polling stations and the system of composition and operation of the electoral supreme court, which partly explain the high abstention rate, highlight once again the need to go through with the electoral reforms in hand, as pointed out by the United Nations Secretary-General's representative on his latest visit to El Salvador. The European Union is therefore pleased to note the President's comments regarding the need to complete those reforms so that they are ready by the time of the 1999 presidential elections.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 58
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 2 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 May 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 1 May 1997 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to respond to the letter dated 17 April 1997 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which was circulated as document A/51/879-S/1997/322 of 21 April 1997.

The said letter repeats the well-known allegations of the Greek Cypriot side regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia ...". I would like to reiterate emphatically that these allegations stem from the unfounded claim of the Greek Cypriot side to be the sole sovereign authority in the island and over its airspace, whereas it has no jurisdiction, control or authority whatsoever over the national territory, airspace or flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

In this connection, I would also like to reiterate that flights by Turkish aircraft within the airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a matter that concerns the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Turkey as two sovereign independent States which recognize each other. Any attempted interference with this airspace or flight information region is null and void and serves no other purpose than further raising tension in the island, which is already high as a result of the recent purchase by the Greek Cypriot side of the sophisticated S-300 missile system, as well as its overall militarization activity, in defiance of Security Council resolution 1092 (1996).

Indeed, with the speedy implementation of the so-called "joint defence doctrine", south Cyprus is being converted into a military base for Greece. While the construction of air and naval bases in south Cyprus for use by the Greek armed forces continues, the joint Greek-Greek Cypriot front persists in further raising tension in the island by conducting provocative war games in and around south Cyprus. In this context, the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece are preparing to stage joint military exercises codenamed "Toxotis" in early May to be followed by further military manoeuvres codenamed "Vergina".

The level of joint decision-making and action between the two, both at the military and political levels, is such that the Greek Cypriot side's official spokesman, Mr. Christofides, has made no secret of it by recently stating that "Cyprus cannot decide alone. Decisions are made only after joint consultations and evaluations with Greece" (Greek Cypriot daily Fileleftheros of 22 April 1997). I have no doubt that the international community, in awareness of its negative implications for a pacific resolution of the dispute, will draw the necessary conclusions from this all-encompassing integration between Greece and south Cyprus.

Particularly at a time when efforts are being made to resume direct negotiations between the leaders of the two sides in Cyprus under United Nations

auspices, the necessity of abstaining from this kind of behaviour and propaganda is obvious. It is high time that the Greek Cypriot side starts acting in accordance with its responsibilities in this respect.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of
Northern Cyprus